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UNCLAS ZAGREB 002623

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR S/ES-CR AND S/ES-O  
ALSO FOR EUR/SCE (KABUMOTO)

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: LETTER TO PRESIDENT BUSH FROM PRIME MINISTER  
DESIGNATE SANADER ON THE OCCASION OF SADDAM HUSSEIN'S  
CAPTURE

11. ON DECEMBER 14, HDZ PARTY PRESIDENT AND CROATIAN PRIME  
MINISTER-DESIGNATE IVO SANADER SENT TO THE EMBASSY A LETTER  
FOR PRESIDENT BUSH. THE LETTER (ORIGINAL BEING POUCHED TO  
WASHINGTON, FULL TEXT BELOW) CONGRATULATES PRESIDENT BUSH ON  
THE CAPTURE OF SADDAM HUSSEIN AND PLEDGES CLOSER BILATERAL  
COOPERATION, PARTICULARLY IN THE WAR ON TERRORISM.

12. BEGIN TEXT OF DECEMBER 14 LETTER TO PRESIDENT BUSH.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:

I AM THRILLED BY THE NEWS OF THE SUCCESSFUL APPREHENSION OF  
SADDAM HUSSEIN, THE FORMER RULER OF IRAQ AND ONE OF THE  
WORLD'S MOST NOTORIOUS DICTATORS. IT IS WITH UTMOST  
SATISFACTION THAT I CONGRATULATE YOU ON THIS GREAT SUCCESS.  
THIS IS A GLORIOUS DAY FOR THE FREE WORLD AND FOR ALL PEOPLE  
WHO ASPIRE TO A WORLD OF PEACE AND PROSPERITY. TODAY'S  
SUCCESS WILL HAVE AN ENORMOUS IMPACT ON THE FUTURE OF NOT  
ONLY IRAQ AND ITS PEOPLE BUT ALSO ON THE WHOLE OF THE MIDDLE  
EAST.

AS I POINTED OUT IN MY WALL STREET JOURNAL OP-ED IN MARCH  
2003, GIVEN ITS OWN EXPERIENCE, CROATIA ALSO APPRECIATES THAT  
EVIL IS NOT A METAPHYSICAL ABSTRACTION BUT THAT ITS WRIT RUNS  
THROUGH THE AFFAIRS OF MEN - AND THAT USE OF FORCE, WHILE  
INVARIABLE A HORRIBLE ENTERPRISE, IS SOMETIMES THE ONLY  
ANSWER TO THE CHALLENGE POSED BY EVIL REGIMES. THIS IS WHY  
YOUR SUPERB LEADERSHIP IN GUIDING THE WORLD COMMUNITY IN THE  
STRUGGLE AGAINST WORLDWIDE TERRORISM IS AN INSPIRATION TO US  
ALL.

SINCE THE VERY BEGINNING OF THE WAR ON TERROR THE CROATIAN  
DEMOCRATIC UNION AND I HAVE GIVEN UNWAVERING SUPPORT TO THE  
LEADING ROLE OF THE UNITED STATES. AS THE FUTURE PRIME  
MINISTER OF CROATIA I AM COMMITTED TO STEP-UP CROATIA'S  
ACTIVE ENGAGEMENT IN THE INTERNATIONAL FIGHT AGAINST  
TERRORISM.

I SEE A STRONG RELATIONSHIP WITH THE U.S. AS A KEY PILLAR OF  
CROATIA'S FOREIGN POLICY. I LOOK FORWARD TO COOPERATING WITH  
YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, AND WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED  
STATES OF AMERICA ON STRENGTHENING THE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN  
OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

SINCERELY YOURS, DR. IVO SANADER, PRESIDENT OF THE CROATIAN  
DEMOCRATIC UNION AND PRIME MINISTER DESGINATE.

END TEXT.